

Glacier County Superintendent of Schools
Glacier County Courthouse, Suite 100
Helena, MT 59601
Darryl D. Omsberg
Cell Phone: 406-873-2295
(406) 873-2295 - Telephone
(406) 873-2295 - Fax
(406) 791-5204 - Cell
darryl@glacier.k12.mt

March 7, 2013

House Human Services Committee
State Capitol Building
Helena, MT 59620

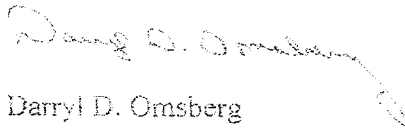
Dear Chairman Howard and Members of the Committee:

Serving as Glacier County School Superintendent, I am in favor of the Committee passing SB230. The passage of this bill is very important to our local school districts and to our rural communities in Glacier County, Montana. We hope that the act to revise audiology and speech-language pathology licensing to include telepractice is passed.

The improvement in providing services through modern technology is a huge plus in to our local medical services and to school districts. Providing quality services at the local level reduces costs to patients, which eliminates added costs for traveling and rescheduling appointments due to inclement weather. Modern technology allows many great services to be provided locally. By keeping it at a local level, it keeps dollars local to help rural communities, such as Cut Bank and Browning.

Thank you for your time and considerations. Please pass SB230.

Sincerely,



Darryl D. Omsberg
Glacier County Superintendent of Schools

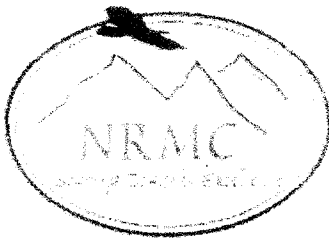
**House Human Services Committee
March 11, 2013 hearing on SB 230
Revise laws governing board of speech-language pathologists and audiologists**

Proponent Testimony from Grant and Alisa Orr

Mr. Chair, Members of the Committee:

We are writing to show our support for SB 230 to allow telepractice for speech and language pathologist use in the state of Montana. We started receiving speech and language services when our oldest child was 3 and currently have 2 other children receiving services through the RiteCare Clinic at The University of Montana. We take them in once a week, even though their situation would have them seen more often. We live south of Florence and can't get them into Missoula more than once a week. Offering the option of telepractice would give the speech pathologists and my children the extra time and practice they need to address their speech issues. Please consider voting in favor of this bill to help all of the children in rural Montana areas that are in need! Thank you.

Grant and Alisa Orr



Northern Rockies Medical Center, Inc.

March 6, 2013

House Human Services Committee

Dear Chairman Howard and members of the Committee:

I am writing in favor of SB230 introduced by C. Wenzel. It is very important to our rural community members to have an act relating to audiologic and speech-language pathology licensing to allow for telepractice.

Technology has advanced to the point that our patients can really benefit through it to obtain the medical services they need without traveling long distances. What we find is if patients cannot for whatever reasons make their appointments, then their treatment in the end costs more. For some patients, the long distances are just too much in their current medical condition or the weather is too bad to make it.

This bill has the ability to reduce total costs to the patient and insurers while providing the quality medical services the patient needs. Everyone wins in the end.

Please support SB230.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Taylor

Chief Executive Officer

House Human Services Committee

March 11, 2013 hearing on SB 230

Revise laws governing board of speech-language pathologists and audiologists

**Proponent Testimony from Lon Peterson, Northern Rockies Medical Center Board
of Directors**

My name is Lon Peterson, and I am on the board of directors of the critical access hospital Northern Rockies Medical Center. Our mission is to provide our community with the best medical care we possibly can. SB 230 will enable Montana's rural population to have access to much needed therapy that is otherwise too far away for most to obtain. Northern Rockies Medical Center serves a very rural population that would have to travel way too far for these therapy services. I urge you to pass this legislation to enable those of us unfortunate enough to be speech-afflicted to obtain services that are so needed.

Sincerely,

Lon Peterson
116 5th Avenue SE
Cut Bank, MT 59427
(406) 873-4037
(406) 949-1774 (cell)
Londebpeterson@bresnan.net